

THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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SATURDAY, MARCH 31 1917.

WHOLE NUMBER 1168

DAVID J. LEWIS



David J. Lewis of Maryland, a member of the United States tariff commission.

DEMOCRATSWITHDUMA

Socialist Group in Russia Declare for New Government.

Says to Push Party's Plans Now Might Restore Monarchy—Must Win the War.

Petrograd, March 29.—A group of social democrats has put out a declaration which, as nearly as can be ascertained, fairly represents the attitude of the majority of that party to the present situation. The declaration, which is signed by half a dozen locally prominent names, favors a vigorous prosecution of the war, leaving the demands of the social democracy in abeyance until the country is safe from the danger of a return of the monarchy. It says in part: "The program of the new government is satisfactory to a sufficient extent. The present state of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist society no doubt precludes the possibility of changing the present revolution into a social one. Any effort in that direction might precipitate a counter-revolution and bring about a return of the monarchy."

"The necessary democratic control of the work of the new government can be achieved best by participation in the temporary administration of representatives of the workmen's democracy and a wide and stable organization of the popular forces and the political independence. Only when we appeal to the workmen, soldiers and deputies to assist the temporary government in the realization of a program of freedom and in the preparation for the national convention, keeping at the same time their full political independence. Only when the election for the national convention begins shall we present in full our demands for agrarian and social reform."

On the subject of the war the declaration said:

"The victory of the central empires would bring ruin and reinstate the old regime. It is necessary now, more than ever before, to continue the struggle against the last bulwark of monarchial control in Europe."

URGE REPRISAL FOR SINKING

British Admiralty May Place Highest Ranking German Officer on Hospital Ship.

London, March 29.—It is predicted by the press in commenting on the sinking of the hospital ship Asturias that prompt reprisals will be made by the admiralty. The form these will take is undecided, but it is being urged that the highest ranking officers among the German prisoners be carried on each hospital ship.

One of the nurses aboard the craft declared the vessel was brilliantly lit at the time of the attack, and that no warning was given.

The survivors were landed on the shores of an unnamed estuary.

French Deputies Blast Victims. Paris, March 29.—An accidental explosion occurred in the city hall at Bapaume and a number of persons were buried in the debris. Raoul Briquet and Albert Taillandier, deputies from the arrondissement of Assas, who have been engaged in relief work, were reported among the victims.

OFFER OF PEACE MADE TO RUSSIA?

Berlin Reported to Have Made Overtures to End War.

TERMS COSTLY FOR TURKS

Internationalization of Constantinople and Slav Rule of Armenia Said to Be Included in Offer—Autonomy for Poland.

London, March 29.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says:

"According to a Berlin telegram received by the Amsterdam bourse, Berlin is filled with rumors that Germany has offered a separate peace to Russia. The terms offered are said to be complete autonomy to Poland, the internationalization of Constantinople, the evacuation by Russia of Austrian territory and a Russian protectorate over Armenia."

Generals Under Arrest.

A Petrograd dispatch reports the arrest of three prominent Russian military officers, General Schiewan, who suppressed the revolution in 1905; General Siegel, who was military commander of Kharkov fortress, and General Mrososovsky.

The executive committee at Kiev has ordered the domiciliary arrest at a hotel there of Gen. N. I. Ivanoff, former commander of the Russian armies in Volhynia and Galicia, according to a Reuters dispatch. The committee has telegraphed the government for instructions.

Agitators Are Active.

Petrograd, March 29.—The work of agitators, whose efforts are designed to hinder the successful accomplishment of the revolution, is becoming apparent with the subsidence of activity on the part of the military which forced the supporters of the old regime to keep in hiding during the early days of the upheaval.

The indications of such work in Petrograd, which are indefinite in form, are confused with the possible designs of a horde of criminal prisoners who were released from the jails with political offenders. One definite instance has been recorded, however, a motor car speeding along the streets scattered proclamations calling on the people to undertake wholesale massacre of the intelligent classes.

Fired On by Militia.

On other occasions during the night time similar cars have been running about without lights. Their occupants are said to have fired on the militia. The militia is thoroughly alive to the danger of such counter manifestations, and the commandant has issued strict orders for vigilance.

Strange chalk-markings on the rear doors of apartments throughout the city are causing much uneasiness, and in the absence of other explanations they are being linked with the general mass of rumors and reports of efforts being made for counter revolution. From Kharkov, Kiev and points along the Volga come reports of efforts on the part of the old secret police to stir up opposition to the new government.

SPRING THAW HALTS ARMIES

Weather Conditions Delay Military Activity on the Russian Front, Says Berlin.

Berlin, March 29.—No military actions of importance will be possible for some time on the Russian front from the Baltic to the Carpathians, owing to the setting in of the spring thaw, the army headquarters statement indicates. There is some activity on the Russian front and the failure of a Russian attack on Magyros is reported, with the capture by Teutonic forces of a strongly entrenched ridge of the Uzul valley.

MUST DRAW UPON RESERVES

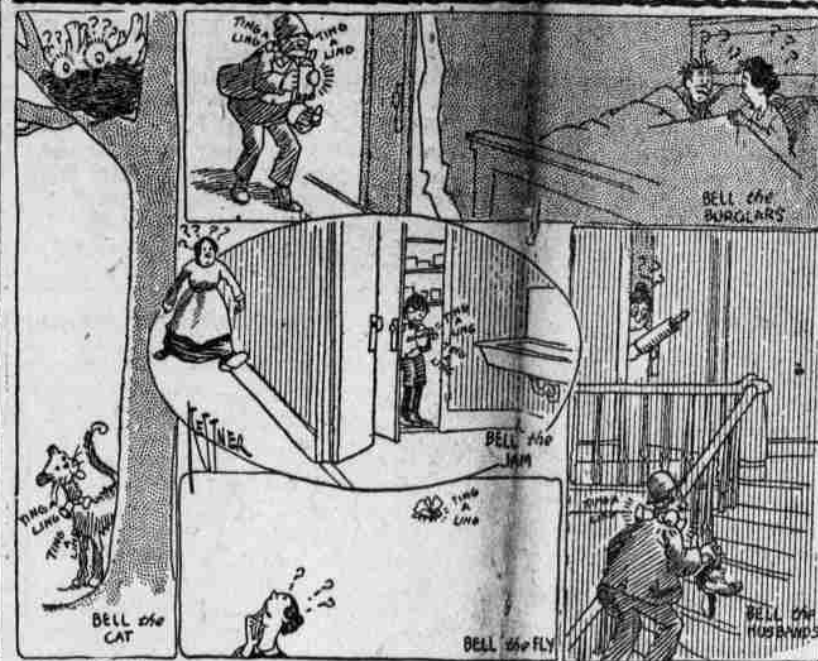
German Food Dictator Von Batocki Tells Reichstag Food Output Can't Be Increased.

Amsterdam, March 29.—It is impossible for Germany to increase her food production, the reichstag committee on food compensation has been informed by Adolf von Batocki, the German food dictator, according to a dispatch from Berlin. The dictator is quoted as saying that Germany must draw upon her reserves of cattle and that the bread restrictions, although insufficient, are the best that can be made now.

Urges Break With Austria.

Peking, March 29.—Liang Chi-Chao, a leader in Chinese reform movement, has addressed a memorial to the government urging that the country break with Austria-Hungary within 48 hours and enter the war at once.

WHY NOT BELL OUR WORRIES?



(Copyright.) Humane society advises belling the cat to save our wild birds.—News Item.

MAY CALL ENTIRE NATIONAL GUARDS

TO COLORS VERY SHORTLY IS PREDICTED AT MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

Regular Army Soldiers To Relieve Guards Who Are Guarding Strategic Points.

Western Newspaper Union News Service

Columbus, O.—Expectation is high at military headquarters here that the entire Ohio National Guard will be summoned to the colors within a short time. This feeling proceeds from the interpretation of the order sent here from Chicago by Adjutant General George H. Wood, now at Major General Davis' headquarters, regarding the release of the Ohio National Guard troops now guarding strategic points upon the arrival of "other forces." This could only mean that the relieving troops would be from the Federal army. Part of these, it was expected, would be the Third and Sixth Regiments, which, after returning to mustering camps from Mexico, were held at Indianapolis and Chicago. The intimation was given that the Third Regiment, Colonel Robert Huebner, of Dayton, commanding, was already some place in Ohio, having received orders to entrain at Ft. Benjamin Harrison.

Guarding is in charge of the First, Fourth, Fifth and Eleventh Regiment details, and these will be relieved in whole or part because of the national military law. Being on state duty they must be officially relieved by state orders and sent to their homes, at which points they become subject to mobilizing or other orders from the Federal departmental commanders. This is the explanation given of the command from Adjutant General Wood.

ANSWER CALL TO ARMS

Engineers Ordered to Return to Capital—Navy Takes Means to Rush Shipbuilding.

Washington, D. C.—The number of national guardsmen called into the Federal service for policing industrial and other strategic points was brought up to 50,000 under orders issued. At the same time the regular First Regiment of Engineers, scattered along the Mexican border, was ordered back to its barracks at the capital. The navy took additional measures to hasten construction and equipment of fighting ships, and both the War and Navy Departments announced further provisions to facilitate recruiting. The national guard regiments ordered for "police purposes of protection are the First West Virginia Infantry, the Seventy-Fourth New York Infantry, the Second Connecticut Infantry and the Second New Jersey Infantry.

EXODUS OF GERMANS DENIED

Government Reports Show That Few Have Crossed the Border Into Mexico.

Washington, March 29.—Official reports from the Southern department made public say reports that many Germans have crossed into Mexico since diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany were broken off are without foundation. The records of the immigration authorities and of the army intelligence service along the border show that only three Germans have passed into Mexico since February 1 in the Brownsville district and 78 in the Laredo region, 34 of the latter having returned to the United States.

FRENCH WIN IN TWO DIRECTIONS

Move Ahead of Ailette River and East of Leuilly-Neuville Line.

TAKE IMPORTANT POSITIONS

Gain Three Miles South of the Somme and Straighten Out Their Line Near Coucy—Berlin Claims Victory.

Paris, March 29.—The advance of the French in the region north of Soissons was continued during the night. Progress was made north of the Ailette river and east of the Leuilly-Neuville-sur-Margival line, where important positions were captured.

These gains are recorded in the official report, which also indicates unusual activity further east. The artillery of both the French and the Germans kept up a violent fire during the night on the front between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne. Heavy artillery fighting is in progress in the region east of the lower forest of Coucy.

French Advance on Two Lines.

The statement follows: "Between the Somme and the Oise and south of the Oise there were no important events during the night. The artillery firing was rather heavy in the region east of the lower forest of Coucy. North of the Ailette we made further progress and also in the sector west of the line Leuilly-Neuville-sur-Margival, where we captured several important points of support."

"In the region of Reims we made a surprise attack east of Neuville, taking prisoners. In the Champagne during the night the artillery fighting became violent, especially in the region of Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne."

Advance South of the Somme.

The French made a substantial advance south of the Somme, moving forward in places as far as three miles from their former positions, with the result that the big bulge in the line formed by the lower Coucy forest has disappeared and the front runs continuously straight from the Somme to the Aisne.

Coucy-le-Chateau, which is perched on a height, could not be attacked from the front, and the French, following Napoleon's maxim of going around an obstacle that cannot be surmounted, cleared the Germans out of the lower forest. The operation was carried out with skill and dispatch and Coucy, turned on the right, fell into their hands like a ripe fruit.

Main Position Far in the Rear.

The Germans naturally did not place their main position on the automatically outflanked Coucy plateau, and it evidently lies farther in the rear. Behind the lower forest and plateau is a vale passing from Anizy-le-Chateau through Quincy-Basse and Auliers to Fresnes. On the upper side of this natural moat, rising abruptly to a height of 650 feet, lies the upper Coucy forest from which artillery can sweep the plateau on which the old tower of Coucy stood.

It is there that the enemy's main position will be found. It is a most formidable position and admirably adapted to defense, and it is to be foreseen that the French, who are acting with the great prudence the situation demands, will mark time here, as on the more northerly sections, and give the columns operating between the Ailette and the Aisne time to work up toward Anizy and threaten the position from the left flank.

Reprise French With Big Losses.

Berlin, March 29.—A French attack on the west bank of the Oise near La Fere failed with heavy losses, the war office announces. French trenches in the Champagne south of Ripont were captured by the Germans.

ADRIATIC ARRIVES IN SAFETY

White Star Liner, With Six Americans on Board, Arrives at Unnamed English Port.

New York, March 29.—The British passenger steamship Adriatic of the White Star line, which left New York on the same day on which the St. Louis departed, has arrived safely at an English port. Among the Adriatic's 65 passengers were six American citizens, members of a Harvard surgical unit, on their way to France.

M. ISWOLSKY



M. Iswolsky is the Russian ambassador to France.

WILSON FOR WAR ACT

President's Advisers Resent Intimation That He Is Wabbling.

Busy Preparing the Country for Conflict—No Doubt as to the Situation.

Washington, March 29.—Reports that President Wilson has no definite policy in mind, and that his "mind is open" on the main issue as between Germany and the United States at this time aroused deep resentment in administration circles.

"Why did the president call congress to meet two weeks earlier than expected?" was one of the queries put by an administration spokesman in reply to an assertion that the president was "wabbling." The inference was that the president had a definite purpose in view when he issued the call for the special session next Monday, that he has not changed his mind, and that he will not change it.

It is no secret here that the public men having the entrée at the White House are virtually of one mind. They are agreed, so far as can be ascertained, that the policy of the German government toward this country justifies a declaration of a state of war. In fact, they believe that such an official statement would be a mere definition of the real status. There is no evidence that the views of any of these men have been changed by anything they have seen or heard recently.

As a matter of fact, official Washington is too busy preparing the country for a state of defense to permit even an inference that there is any doubt in the White House or elsewhere as to what the situation is or what action is necessary.

NEW PEACE OFFER REPORTED

Germany Said to Have Made Overtures to the New Russian Government.

London, March 29.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Amsterdam says:

"According to a Berlin telegram received by the Amsterdam bourse, Berlin is filled with rumors that Germany has offered a separate peace to Russia. The terms offered are said to be complete autonomy to Poland, the internationalization of Constantinople, the evacuation by Russia of Austrian territory and a Russian protectorate over Armenia."

LINER CROSSES DANGER ZONE

Armed Manchuria Arrives Safely at Its Port of Destination—Left Ahead of St. Louis.

New York, March 29.—The American liner Manchuria, the second armed vessel to leave this country for the submarine zone, has arrived safely at an English port, according to a cable dispatch received here. It left about 24 hours ahead of the St. Louis with mails and 15,000 tons of cargo, but did not carry any passengers.

Urges Big Crops.

Des Moines, Ia., March 29.—"It is the business of the patriot to see to it that the next harvest is great," declared Gov. W. L. Harding, in a special address to the joint session of the legislature, urging every effort to increase food production in Iowa.